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**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
PLANNING, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
Jim Martinez, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia D. Adauto, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Uribarri, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Adrian Oceguera, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

FROM: Chuck Kooshian, Urban Planner,
Long Range and Neighborhood Planning Division

SUBJECT: Council Agenda Item (Ordinance)
Introduction: June 8, 2004
Public Hearing: June 22, 2004

DATE: June 2, 2004

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE SYSTEM AS DETAILED IN THE MAP ATLAS OF THE PLAN FOR EL PASO AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL IN 1999, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, TO REDESIGNATE PROPOSED ARTERIAL 1, BETWEEN MESA STREET AND STANTON STREET AS A COLLECTOR ARTERIAL AND DELETE THE PROPOSED STANTON STREET EXTENSION BETWEEN ARTERIAL 1 AND ITS EXISTING TERMINATION POINT NEAR EXCALIBUR. (District #1)

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Representative District 4:	date: _____	time: _____	by: _____
Representative District 5:	date: _____	time: _____	by: _____
Representative District 6:	date: _____	time: _____	by: _____
Representative District 7:	date: _____	time: _____	by: _____
Representative District 8:	date: _____	time: _____	by: _____

C: George Sarmiento, Director; Rudy Valdez, Chief Urban Planner; Fred Lopez, Urban Planner; Esther Guerrero, Planning Technician; Lisa A. Elizondo, City Attorney; Terry Cullen-Garney, Deputy City Attorney; Matt Watson, Assistant City Attorney

Background:

Arterial 1 is a proposed freeway/expressway shown on the Major Thoroughfare Plan as running eastward from Doniphan Drive towards the Franklin Mountains and passing through a tunnel to emerge in what is now the Jobe Quarry to connect to Fred Wilson. This proposed freeway and tunnel is considered to be an “inner loop” which would provide easy access between the west and northwest areas of El Paso.

Stanton Street is designated as a minor arterial on the Major Thoroughfare Plan. It currently runs parallel to the Franklin Mountains from Silver Springs towards Festival. It ends about one quarter mile south of Festival and picks up again near Excalibur after which it descends toward downtown. The gap is proposed on the Major Thoroughfare Plan to be connected as a minor arterial, which would run partly through the Franklin Mountains State Park.

Request:

A request was received on behalf of Roma Development to consider removing the proposed Arterial 1 or downgrading it to a collector arterial between Mesa and Stanton. The proposed Stanton connection would have a bearing on the traffic network in the area; it was added to the analysis based on questions about its feasibility given the approval of certain plats and opposition from the State Park and the Mission Hills, Kern Place and Rim-University neighborhood groups.

Analysis:

TxDOT was contacted regarding their plans for the Inner Loop, including the tunnel. Their response was that they hoped the City would maintain the proposal on the Major Thoroughfare Plan but they could not provide a timeline, cost, or right-of-way requirement for such a major investment without extensive study (letter attached). The tunnel is not on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plan at this time. The tunnel was not in the recommended alternative of the I-10 West corridor study commissioned by TxDOT.

Travel demand model projected volumes for the year 2030 were studied under several scenarios, both with a tunnel and without, and with Stanton connection and without. Without a tunnel or a Stanton connection, the model projected 2030 traffic suggests that Arterial 1 could be as small as a collector arterial. If a tunnel were built, Arterial 1 would probably need to be at least a minor arterial.

The modeled presence or absence of the Stanton connection has a minor effect on Arterial 1, either with or without modeling the tunnel. Traffic on Mesa increases slightly without the Stanton connection when there is no tunnel. Under the tunnel scenario, traffic on Mesa increases by approximately 5,000 daily trips when the Stanton connection is removed.

Recommendation:

The Development Coordinating Committee and the City Planning Commission recommend:

- *Redesignate proposed Arterial 1 as a local collector between Mesa St and Stanton Street*

- *Delete proposed Stanton St extension between Arterial 1 and existing terminus near Excalibur*

Timeline for Arterial 1 MTP Amendment:

Thoroughfare Review Team	Apr 2, 2004
Development Coordinating Committee	Apr 14, 2004
City Plan Commission	May 20, 2004
City Council Introduction	June 8, 2004
City Council Hearing	June 22, 2004

Encl: TxDOT Letter
Ordinance



Texas Department of Transportation

13301 GATEWAY BLVD. WEST • EL PASO, TEXAS 79928-5410 • (915) 790-4200

April 6, 2004

Mr. George G. Sarmiento, AICP
Director of Department of Planning, Research, & Development
Two Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mr. Sarmiento:

In reference to the request by Conde Inc., to remove portion of the Arterial 1, TxDOT prefers for the concept for Arterial 1 to remain. The draft MTP 2030 mentions that congestion levels on Sunland Park Drive and other major roadways will decrease in part because of Arterial 1. There is also the possibility of Arterial 1 becoming the connection between Border Highway West, Interstate 10, and Inner Loop projects. The importance of Arterial 1 is seen by the benefits it may provide to the transportation network.

Unfortunately, TxDOT has not developed any feasibility studies to substantiate these benefits or to quantify traffic volumes that would be using this thoroughfare. Because of this lack of information, TxDOT can not make a recommendation on the amount of right of way necessary for the future Arterial 1. At this point, we only ask for the concept of Arterial 1 to remain, even if it is downgraded in roadway classification at this time. City of El Paso personnel will have to make that decision. Please call me at (915) 790-4240, if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Longenbaugh, P.E.
Director,
Transportation, Planning, & Development

cc: file

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE SYSTEM AS DETAILED IN THE MAP ATLAS OF THE PLAN FOR EL PASO AND ITS RELATED DOCUMENTS AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED BY THE EL PASO CITY COUNCIL IN 1999, AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, TO REDESIGNATE PROPOSED ARTERIAL 1, BETWEEN MESA STREET AND STANTON STREET AS A COLLECTOR ARTERIAL AND DELETE THE PROPOSED STANTON STREET EXTENSION BETWEEN ARTERIAL 1 AND ITS EXISTING TERMINATION POINT NEAR EXCALIBUR.

WHEREAS, *The Plan for El Paso* was formally adopted by the City Council on April 27, 1999, pursuant to the provisions of Section 213.002 of the Texas Local Government Code as the Comprehensive Plan for the City; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan serves as a general guide for the future growth and development of the City to promote public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, its adoption was based on the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee following numerous public meetings and working sessions; and

WHEREAS, a well planned transportation system is a key element for improving the quality of life, by balancing neighborhood concerns with provision of access for commerce and mobility for personal travel; and

WHEREAS, the Development Coordinating Committee ("DCC") has recommended a change to the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System map contained within *The Plan for El Paso* to provide the most beneficial relationship between the uses of land and circulation of traffic throughout the City, and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the DCC was submitted to the City Plan Commission for its review, and the City Plan Commission has recommended the adoption of the change to the Year 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System map as herein enumerated; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the adoption of *The Plan for El Paso* and its changes to the thoroughfare alignments as herein enumerated will have no negative impact upon the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the 2025 Proposed Thoroughfare System, as detailed in the Map Atlas of *The Plan for El Paso*, is herein amended as described below and as more particularly shown in the attached and incorporated Exhibit "A".

**Northwest Planning Area.
Representative District 1**

- Redesignate proposed Arterial 1, shown in exhibit "A," as a local collector between Mesa St and Stanton Street.
- Delete proposed Stanton St extension between Arterial 1 and existing terminus near Excalibur as shown in exhibit "A."

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of **JUNE, 2004.**


THE CITY OF EL PASO

Joe Wardy
Mayor

ATTEST:

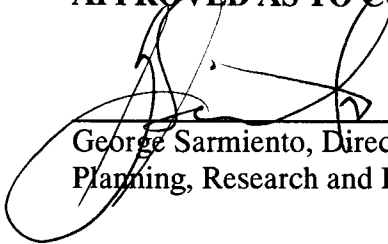
Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Matt Watson
Assistant City Attorney

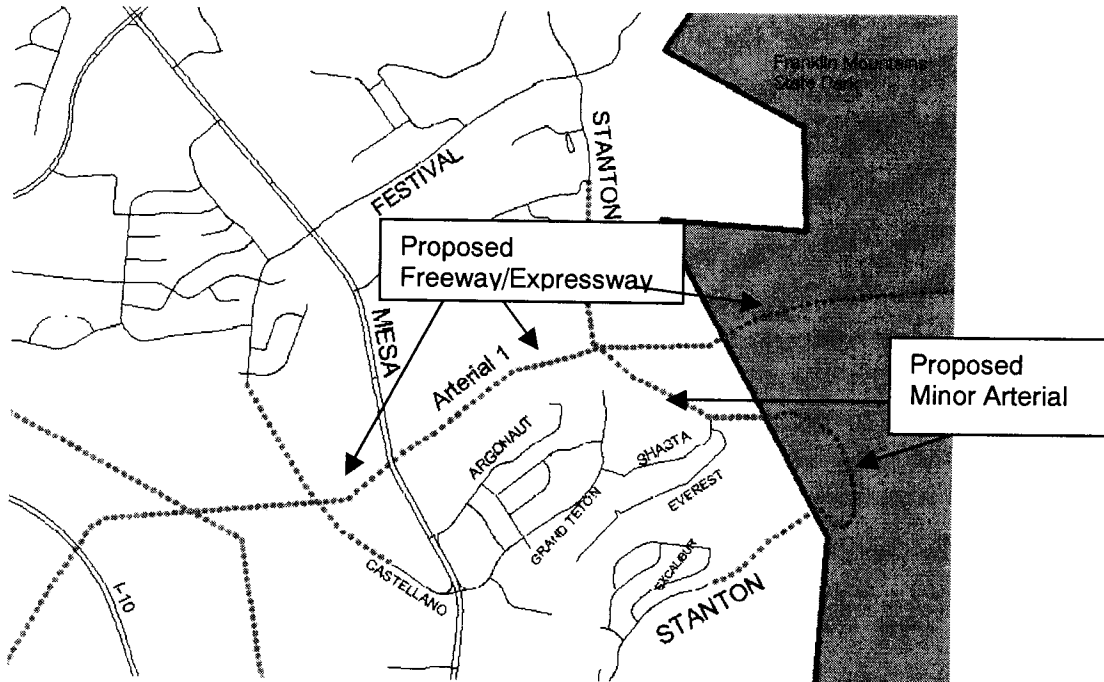
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



George Sarmiento, Director
Planning, Research and Development

Exhibit A

Current Major Thoroughfare Plan



Proposed Amendment

